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## THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

United States Serial No. : Not Yet Assigned  
 International Application No. : PCT/EP00/03842  
 International Filing Date : 27 April 2000  
 Inventor(s) : ARENAS, Ernest et al.  
 Title : MATERIALS AND METHODS  
 RELATING TO NEURONAL  
 DEVELOPMENT

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Assistant Commissioner  
 for Patents  
 Washington, DC 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Dear Sir:

Before calculation of the filing fee, please amend the claims of the above-referenced patent application, i.e. the claims presented under Article 34 in the corresponding international patent application, as follows:

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

4. (Amended) A method according to claim 1 comprising co-culturing the neural stem cell or neural progenitor cell with a Type 1 astrocyte of the ventral mesencephalon.

6. (Amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein said cell is mitotic when it is contacted with said one or more factors.

7. (Amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein said cell is additionally contacted with one or more agents selected from the group consisting of: basic fibroblast growth factor (bFGF), epidermal growth factor (EGF), an activator of the retinoid X